

5 December 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Major General Robert A. Breitweiser
Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
U. S. Air Force

SUBJECT : Membership of Soviet Air Attache in the
American Rocket Society

1. At the request of the Air Force member, the USIB Committee on Exchanges, at its meeting on 21 November 1961, again discussed the membership in the American Rocket Society of the Soviet Air Attache, Major General Kostjuk. It was agreed that this is a matter of deep concern to the intelligence community and that every effort should be made to have this membership revoked. Attached is a letter to the Department of State expressing our concern and requesting the Department's assistance in rectifying this situation.

2. The Committee also expressed its concern regarding the lack of equal opportunities for US attaches in the Soviet Union and suggests that efforts be made by the US Air Attache in Moscow to secure membership in the Moscow Central Aero/Inoni Chkalov. While recognizing the unlikelihood of success in this effort, it was felt that rejection would provide additional support to governmental efforts to revoke Kostjuk's membership in the American Rocket Society and in denying other Soviet Bloc attaches membership in US national societies should it be attempted. We also felt that, in view of the extensive contacts that exist between the Air Force and various members of the American Rocket Society, it might help accomplish our objective if appropriate representatives of the Air Force could take this matter up with selected members of the Society. The members themselves are more likely to be able to accomplish concrete action than is a Government Department which has no official control over activities of the Society.

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WILLIAM A. TIDWELL
Chairman
USIB Committee on Exchanges

O/DDI:WATIDWELL:bb
Orig. & 1 - Addressee
3 - Mr. Farrell, 1 DDI